











UPCOMING SCHEDULE

	09.06.08 @ Mount Union College 1:30 p.m.	L 33-3
	09.13.08 vs. Buffalo State 6 p.m.	W 20-7
	09.20.08 @ University of Rochester 7 p.m.	
	09.27.08 vs. Ithaca College 1 p.m.	
	10.04.08 vs. Hartwick College 1 p.m.	
	10.11.08 vs. Salisbury University 12 p.m.	
	10.18.08 @ Norwich University 1:30 p.m.	
	10.25.08 vs. Springfield College 1 p.m.	
	11.01.08 @ Utica College 1:30 p.m.	
	11.15.08 @ Alfred University 1 p.m.	

2008 Season Preview

SPORTS EDITOR
MIKE SPIER

While losing their season opener for the first time since 2001 to Mount Union was a hard pill to swallow, the St. John Fisher football team needs to keep focusing on the road ahead as they have one of the toughest schedules in the country. Their next goal is to win the Empire 8 Conference for the third consecutive year. This is the team they hope to do it with:

OFFENSE:

Quarterback:
Amidst a quarterback controversy at the beginning of the season, sophomore Tim Bailey earned the starting job over seniors Kevin Eick and Tommy Hammel primarily because of a good performance against Morrisville in a pre-season exhibition as well as a solid fall camp.

His biggest challenge will be trying to replace graduated Rob Kramer, who amassed 50 touchdowns the last two seasons.

Another key player to watch will be Robbie Brown, a transfer from Cornell, who will compliment Bailey in a Chris Leak-Tim Tebow running quarterback substitution style.

Running back:
It will be hard to match the production of the James Reile/Ryan Hanson duo that combined for more than 2000 yards and 23 TDs last season

but junior Brad Carlton will be dealt the task this season. Carlton came in with 134 yards from last season and will have sophomore Luke Herrington as a key backup after Miami of Ohio transfer Scott Biehl broke his leg against Mount Union.

Wide Receiver:
This may be the Cardinals' greatest offensive strength as they return seniors Jimmy Smith and Tim Marion who combined for more than 1,600 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Offensive Line:
At O-line the Cardinals lost three of five offensive starters including All-American Brennan Fortune, Corey Hogan and Mike Weimer. Pete Soehner will take over at left tackle for Fortune while returning starter Andrew Cottet will anchor the right side. The other returner, guard Ben Musall, will solidify the middle of the line along with Matt Lowney and P.J. Columbo

DEFENSE:

Defensive Line:
The D-Line that did not allow a single rusher to go over 100 yards through the first 12 games last season returns three primary starters. Dan Pollock, who had an Empire 8 best nine sacks last season returns as well as Matt Becton and Sean Trapper.

Sophomore Byron Rhone will also play after Tyler Wood was injured versus Mount Union.

Linebackers:
The linebacker corps will bring back last season's top two tacklers in Josh Gottlieb (105) and Derek Melnyk (75). If they match their production from last year and combine it with a solid D-Line, it could make for a formidable run defense.

Secondary:
The Cardinals' secondary suffered the most through graduation. It lost two-time All-American Steve Stepnick as well as Micah Norton and Scott Miranto. Luckily for the Fisher, the replacements have all had starting experience and allowed just 11 yards passing to Buffalo State.

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Senior receivers help Bailey through transition

ONLINE EDITOR
CHRIS POTTER



Playing quarterback is one of the most difficult tasks in sports.

Don't think so? See if this job description sounds enticing: The quarterback has to be perfectly in tune with everyone on the field, while simultaneously countering the maneuvers of a defense that would like nothing more than to pummel him into the ground, Terry Tate-style. In essence, a hyper-fast, ultra-physical version of chess.

Welcome to the world of sophomore quarterback Tim Bailey, who has the added difficulty of following the act of Rob Kramer, one of the most successful QB's in Fisher's history. Kramer, now in his first year as the Cardinals' quarterbacks coach, ranks in the top 10 in four career passing categories.

"Changing from one quarterback to another is always a challenging process," senior wide receiver Jimmy Smith said. "Luckily we had all of

spring ball and preseason to work with [Bailey], so I'd say it hasn't been bad at all."

While Bailey's considerable talent has much to do with this, it doesn't hurt to have two of the best wide receivers in the Empire 8 Conference at his disposal. Smith led the Cardinals with 54 catches last season, good for 855 yards and 13 touchdowns, while fellow senior Tim Marion wasn't far behind, snagging 52 catches.

"It's great having two senior wide receivers like Timmy and Jimmy," Bailey said. "It takes a lot of pressure off of me because I know I just have to get them the ball and they will be able to make a play."

Smith and Marion have quickly adapted to the distinctive style of their sophomore quarterback, one that features a howitzer of an arm and a penchant for improvisation.

"He can throw a forty yard post on a line," Marion said. "He also has the ability to scramble to make broken plays into big plays. I think his ability to make plays happen when nothing was there is what made him stand out."

Of course, performing on the practice field and producing in live action are two different matters, and there are sure to be ups and downs in any young QB's maturation process. Bailey tossed for 231 yards in Fisher's season opener, but was also picked off three times in the 33-3 loss to No. 1 Mount Union.

"Mount was a tough game for him and he had his head down a couple times when he made mistakes," Smith said. "So I went over and talked to him, making sure that he remembered that this is the game he loves and not to worry about the past anymore."

Bailey is far from the first or the last QB to be humbled by Mount Union's defense. Both Smith and Marion, no strangers to great QB play, see big things for Bailey down the road.

"This season you will be able to see him grow into his own shoes a little more every game," Marion said.

"The sky is the limit for this kid," Smith added. "I wouldn't be surprised at all if he broke a couple school records."

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Camp Good Days makes Cardinals' touchdowns worth more than just six points

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR
PAUL WILLIAMS

This year the St. John Fisher men's football team is playing for more than just points.

Camp Good Days and Special Times and Fisher have once again joined forces in a fundraiser named Touchdowns for Kids. The new program has people pledge a specific dollar amount for every touchdown scored by the Cardinals this year. Interested potential donors can find pledge forms at campgood-days.org or they can contact them for more information at 585-624-5555.

The driving force behind Fisher's long-term relationship with Camp Good Days and the new fundraiser is

Fisher assistant coach Gary Mervis. Mervis founded Camp Good Days after his daughter Teddi was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in 1979. The camp was designed to give children with cancer a chance to have the summer camping experience that had been denied to them.

The original idea for Touchdowns for Kids actually came from a former Fisher student and football player. "It (Touchdowns for Kids) really started with Pete Montemurno. He was a student at Fisher who played football and volunteered for the Teddi Dance for Love Committee," Mervis said.

After that the plan was put into motion. Head coach Paul Vosburgh gave

the idea his full support and is very grateful for the connection his team shares with Camp Good Days.

"It means a lot to our program. A lot of times we are not appreciative of the things that we have. To see those young kids with smiles on their faces is great," Vosburgh said.

The money raised by Touchdowns for Kids will go straight to the programs that the kids who visit the camp participate in.

But not only does all the money raised go directly to the Camp, the children also form a special bond with the team and school that cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

"One of the boys named Stephen Taylor would have his mother go get the

paper every Sunday morning and let him know how we did. If we didn't do so well or he was concerned then he would send me an email," Mervis said. "Two years ago when we beat Ithaca, we were behind 10-0 at halftime and I read the email I had gotten from Steve. Then I said which one of you guys want call him after the game to tell him we lost."

Fisher would go on to win the game by a score of 34-10. Taylor passed away the next year. However, the experiences he shared with the team gave him some relief and happiness amidst the hardships the disease brought. In fact, one of his most prized possessions was a Fisher Jersey presented to him during the Courage Bowl.

"One of the young men from Camp Good Days (Taylor) passed away and was buried with one of our jerseys. Something like that means a lot to our players and coaches," Vosburgh said.

After nineteen years coaching at Fisher Mervis is still grateful for everything the school has been able to do for Camp Good Days.

"St. John Fisher has a special place in my heart. I love this school and I love its students," said Mervis. "In the book about Teddi it says 'Immortality is being loved by anonymous people.' Nobody here ever had a chance to meet Teddi and know how special she was, but she is still a part of their lives."

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SEASON RECAP

MOUNT UNION

yards to Mount Union running-back Nate Kmic, while gaining only 18 yards on the ground as a team.

The game also featured the starting debut of sophomore quarterback Tim Bailey, who went 18-for-36 with 231 yards and three interceptions.

Fisher was able to get on the scoreboard in the third quarter on a Chris Pierri 27-yard field goal.

The game marked the first time since 2001 that Fisher has lost a season opener as well as not starting the year out at least 3-0.

BUFFALO STATE

er quarterback Tim Bailey connect with receiver Tim Marion in the endzone for the season's first touchdown pass. A Chris Pierri field goal gave the Cardinals a 20-0 lead.

The Cardinals were led on offense by Bailey, who threw for 264 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, Fisher held the visiting Bengals to 212 yards in total yards, including 11 passing yards.

The win put Fisher at 1-1 for the year heading into Courage Bowl IV against cross-town rival, the University of Rochester Yellow jackets. Fisher has won each of the last three Courage Bowls.

SPECIAL TEAMS



KEY RESERVES



OFFENSIVE LINEUP



DEFENSIVE LINEUP

